

each of r and s is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each R¹ and R² is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl which may be hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino and halogen;

Q is -CO₂H, -CONR'R", -SO₃H or -SO₂NR'R" or an activated derivative of -CO₂H or -SO₃H; and

I is -NHR'''R"" or -NR"C(O)R""", where R', R", R"" and R""'" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, amino protecting groups, reporter ligands, intercalators, chelators, peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, steroids, oligonucleotides and soluble and non-soluble polymers.

REMARKS

Claims 12-19 and 23-25 are pending in this application. Claims 12-19 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness.

To further prosecution, claim 25 was amended on June 13, 2000, to correct an apparent clerical error in the definition of group G in claim 25. This amendment is believed to render the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 moot. Applicants were informed in the Communication mailed August 15, 2000, however, that the amendment was not entered as the manner in which claim 25 was amended was confusing because the claim as originally written contained bracketing. Accordingly, claim 25 has been canceled in favor of new claim 26, which incorporates the proposed change to claim 25.